

### TED KENNEDY'S HISTORIC MILESTONE IN SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this is an interesting, important, and somewhat historic day. This is the day when Senator KENNEDY actually becomes the third most senior Member in the Senate's history, and I think it ought to be noted. He just surpassed the time of seniority by the distinguished Senator from Arizona, Carl Hayden. So he now ranks as the third most senior person in all of Senate history. I commend and congratulate him, and I know I join colleagues on both sides of the aisle in calling attention to this remarkable new addition to his already impressive and extensive résumé.

### HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will comment on a matter that the majority leader raised with regard to the current legislation. The Homeland Security appropriations bill is critical legislation. I have admonished Members on our side of the aisle to recognize how critical it is we finish this work before we leave for the Rosh Hashanah holiday next week. It is very important that this work be done. As I understand it, we have 28 Senators—on both sides of the aisle—who have amendments. We will work with them. Senator REID has noted that he has begun to call each Senator to express the hope that we could winnow down the list.

I noticed as the finite list was established last night that many of these amendments are simply listed as relevant. I hope that many of these so-called placeholders could be eliminated and we could get on with the important work.

There is a need to work under time limits for each amendment and hopefully we can work as late in the evening each day to accomplish what is going to be an aggressive schedule as we try to finish this bill—I should say, as we finish this bill. We are going to do more than try. We will complete it no later than next Wednesday morning, and hopefully sooner than that.

### CONCERNS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, each year, I travel through South Dakota, talking to people where they live and work, in the cafes where they meet, the schools where they send their children, the ranches and sale barns where they hope that this year will bring better prices than the last, the farms where they raise their crops—anywhere people gather to discuss what matters to them.

Every year, I get to all 66 counties, and every year, I marvel at the incredible range of opinions and perspectives I encounter along the way.

But there is another thing that was striking to me this year—and that is

the fact that wherever I was, I heard from different people from different backgrounds a lot of the same hopes, and a lot of the same concerns.

People have a sense of uncertainty. They are uncertain about the progress in the war on terror and the war in Iraq, and they are anxious about the economy—not just about their own jobs, and their own health care, but also about whether their communities and their way of life are going to survive.

In the past few years, whenever I have traveled home, I have sensed the strength of those feelings. And for many of the people I have met, those feelings are growing stronger.

South Dakotans are intensely proud of the valor of our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan—and I share that pride. But ours is a small State, and when South Dakotans talk about “the troops,” they are not talking about some abstract concept. They are talking about friends and loved ones. They are talking about a person who is not there behind the counter when they go to work, or a side of the bed that lies empty.

South Dakota is contributing more troops to our war effort than all but seven other countries.

And so, while South Dakotans support our troops, they also know better than most that support in words is not enough.

While I was home last month, I met a young man named Tyler Neuhardt, who was on leave from Iraq and was just a week away from being sent back. He was proud to serve. But he was also looking forward to returning to college, and he wanted some sense of how long he would be deployed so he could plan for his education and his future.

I spoke to a woman whose husband has been in Iraq for over a year-and-a-half, and she and her young son just learned that the earliest they can hope to see him home is the end of this year.

And I met Lloyd Dejung, who talked about how his unit in Iraq was building bridges in flak jackets that, in his words, you could poke a hole through with a knife.

Our Guard and Reserve troops deserve the same state-of-the-art equipment as active duty personnel. They should get honest answers about when they're coming home. And while they are fighting for their country, they should not have to worry about whether they will have to fight for their jobs, or for health care, or for their education once they return home.

That is why, tomorrow, I will be introducing a National Guard and Reserve Bill of Rights—to say to all our soldiers: You have met your duty to your country, and your country will meet its duty to you.

South Dakotans are fiercely proud, and fiercely independent. When you talk to them, they will tell you what you can do to help a neighbor or a friend, but it takes a little while to get people talking about their own con-

cerns. But when they do, there are a couple of things you hear over and over. They are worried about their jobs, they are worried about their health and their health care, and they are worried that as jobs become more scarce and health care becomes ever less affordable and less available, they are going to lose something else, too. They are worried that the strain these things place on the fabric of their communities will become just too much, and that their communities and their way of life just won't be able to survive.

These are concerns I heard everywhere I went, and they are concerns that we here in Washington have the power to do something about.

More than any time in my memory, people were telling me they needed two and three jobs—not to get ahead, not to save for a house or their child's education, but simply to make their monthly bills. Many good manufacturing jobs have left the State, and it is getting more difficult to find a full-time job that pays a wage good enough to raise a family.

I visited the town of Elk Point. A lot of the folks in Elk Point work about 20 minutes down the road in North Sioux City, where there is a Gateway plant. That plant has been cutting jobs, sending them to India. That plant is now down to 2,000 employees from a high of 6,000.

The people I met simply can not understand how this administration's top economic adviser and its Secretary of Labor can both say that outsourcing of jobs is good for the economy.

In Yankton, 10 percent of the work force is in manufacturing. I spoke to the owner of a company that makes road construction equipment. He said that he has had to cut jobs because we have not passed a highway bill.

The Senate version of the highway bill would create 6,500 jobs in South Dakota and over 1.7 million new jobs nationwide. Our infrastructure, our economy, and our communities need this bill.

Closely tied to concerns about jobs are concerns about health care.

In Huron, a woman came up to me at a meeting. She told me that her husband had been laid off from his job in February. They went on COBRA for a while, but it was expensive, and this month it ran out anyway. They both have health concerns, and they don't know what they are going to do.

Just a couple of nights ago, another woman approached me. She told me about her brother, who has diabetes.

He is 60 years old. He works 40 hours a week. He also took a paper route to earn some more money. But neither of his two jobs offers health insurance, so he doesn't have any. He has begun losing feeling in his legs, but he has not seen a doctor because he does not think he can afford to. A 60-year old man, working full-time and then some, can not afford to go see a doctor. In this country, in this century, that is a disgrace.